

## Wolf Pack teamwork completes 'follow-on forces' puzzle

By Master Sgt. Will Ackerman  
 8th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Jigsaw puzzles consist of hundreds, sometimes thousands of individual pieces. People sit for hours, even days, tediously connecting individual cardboard shapes to construct a final image. Each piece fits nicely into its place.

Imagine sitting at a table working for days to interconnect thousands of individual shapes when you discover you are missing the one piece required to complete the puzzle. Although nearly whole, the missing piece means the puzzle is incomplete.

The process to accept follow-on forces, the second part of Kunsan Air Base's three-part mission, is comparable to a jigsaw puzzle. Numerous individual agencies – similar to the puzzle pieces – must seamlessly intertwine to complete the "big picture" involved to accept the forces. If any of the individual pieces – or agencies – were missing, the Wolf Pack's ability to construct the "follow-on forces" puzzle is incomplete.

Kunsan's follow-on forces puzzle consists of four main pieces: 8th Logistics Support Squadron's Logistics Plans Flight (LGLX), 8th Transportation Squadron's Ramp Coordinators (RAMPCO), 8th Mission Support Squadron's Reception Processing Unit (RPU), and individual unit reception managers (URM) and support plan monitors.

With a puzzle, one piece, usually the last one placed, ultimately intertwines the others to make a final, complete picture. In the follow-on forces puzzle, logistics plans is that central, interweaving factor.

When follow-on forces arrive here, Kunsan members see the byproduct of the log-plans staff's work. They do most of their work behind the scenes coordinating and planning with individual 8th Fighter Wing URMs and support plan monitors, 7th Air Force at Osan Air Base, and Combined Forces Command in Seoul.

According to LGLX's deployments and receptions NCO in charge, log-plans' job is to ensure each of the puzzle pieces fit together.

"Individual units see their own picture. Our job is to see the 'big picture' and how each unit's requirements fit in with the rest of the base's needs," said Tech. Sgt. Rosalyn Hawkins.

The Base Support Plan (BSP) is the primary planning document log-plans produces to identify how Kunsan units will support 8th FW taskings in the base's wartime operations plan. Although the flight's support plan NCO in charge, Staff Sgt. Shawn Smallwood, produces the BSP, he merely acts as a clearinghouse for information from individual units. Support plan monitors develop their unit's portion of the BSP to identify how functional areas would support follow-on forces here during war, including transportation, lodging and communications.

The plan is written in two parts: Part 1 identifies Kunsan's normal day-to-day capabilities. Part 2 includes Time Phased Force Deployment Data, or TPFDD, that identifies numbers of follow-on forces that would deploy here, including specific bases tasked and when the troops would arrive. It also includes additional equipment that would arrive to resupply and sustain Kunsan's war effort.

"It sounds easier than what it is," said Master Sgt. Samuel Speziale, 8th LSS Logistics Plans superintendent. "Accepting follow-on forces is more than a TDY. Troops cannot just come here in country. There are a lot of requirements that must be filled."



Photo by Staff Sgt. Jerry Morrison, 8th CS/VI

Master Sgt. Doris Cousin, 8th Medical Group unit reception manager, briefs airmen role-playing as follow-on forces at the reception processing unit in the Seabreeze during a recent Kunsan initial readiness response exercise.

Although LGLX is the clearinghouse for the base's follow-on forces requirements, its team merely links the puzzle pieces together from individual unit reception managers who receive forces and cargo, and support plan monitors who write their unit's BSP chapter.

"The support plan monitors are the keys to the plan," Hawkins said. "We are not the experts for each functional area, but we have a thinking knowledge of all the base's functions." What's more, she said, URMs are important links in the puzzle because they physically receive cargo and follow-on forces, put the additional forces into lodging and integrate them into the base's workforce. Consequently, log-plans train support plan monitors how to write their portion of the BSP, and unit reception managers what they need to do when inbound forces for their unit arrive.

"Our goal is to make sure the entire base is working off the same procedures," Hawkins said.

Another vital piece in the follow-on forces puzzle is the two-person RAMPCO team. Similar to a symphony conductor who blends several musical instruments' sounds in unison to produce harmonious music, RAMPCO harmoniously orchestrates activity on the transient aircraft ramp when aircraft arrive here.

"If there was no one out there on the ramp to orchestrate, there would be no accountability for cargo and passengers," said Staff Sgt. Genevieve Lawrence, 8th TRNS RAMPCO.

Once an aircraft lands, RAMPCO inventories each item from a manifest provided by the aircraft loadmaster to ensure all the cargo is accounted for and then releases equipment to the appropriate URM. If classified cargo is onboard, RAMPCO ensures it's turned over to an appropriate escort. In addition to orchestrating cargo and passenger needs, RAMPCO airmen ensure all safety procedures are followed, she said.

Working in separate 12-hour shifts without cover on the flightline, Lawrence and Staff Sgt. Christopher Pommier, combat the winter's rain, snow and wind, or the summer's scorching heat. Additionally, frequent SCUD, mortar or opposing forces attacks send them diving for cover. But Lawrence said she realizes the impact of her job.

"Some units wouldn't get equipment or cargo they requested if we were not there," she said. However, Lawrence attributes much of their success to the close working relationship with the Deployment/Reception Control Center, logistics plans' function during war.

"They are our lifeline," she said. "They provide us the schedule of events for arriving aircraft and inform us if one's going to be late, call for lighting equipment if it's not on the ramp, and call cargo URMs to make sure they are out there. I don't think we could operate without a function like the DRCC."

Providing the final link in the follow-on forces puzzle, the Reception Processing Unit is a "one-stop shop" for personnel arriving at Kunsan.

"We are the entrance-way for people arriving here to augment the Wolf Pack," said Capt. Susan Colmenares, Chief, Reception Processing Unit. "Our goal is to get the new people acclimated to Kunsan as soon as possible."

Although the Wolf Pack's RPU inprocesses new people here during each Thursday's Patriot Express, the wartime process is different. The peacetime goal is to give new Kunsan airmen "enough information to survive the weekend," said Senior Master Sgt. Trenna Hooten, RPU superintendent. However, during wartime airmen go through a series of inprocessing stations, to include registering into the base, receiving immunizations and listening to a myriad of briefings, including intelligence, supply and security forces.

The difference from peacetime receptions and wartime is accountability, Colmenares said. Therefore, the wartime reception processing area is sanitized, or controlled, so incoming forces are not allowed to leave the area until unit representatives sign for them.

"We can't afford to lose anybody," she said. "It's all about counting people and providing accountability. During peacetime, there's a different urgency to inprocessing. People's lives are not at risk. We are not losing people in battle. If this were a real war, and any of these people were injured or died, the accountability would help us to make personal (family) notifications and to obtain replacement troops."

The follow-on forces pieces intertwine again after airmen process through the RPU. URMs pick up their new personnel, quickly integrate them into their specific missions through briefings and train and meld them into the Wolf Pack mission.

Although RPU conducts troop inprocessing, logistics plans again provides the linking piece to the follow-on puzzle, according to Colmenares. They keep RPU informed when incoming troops are due to arrive.

"(The DRCC) really pulls all the wing's units together to make the reception process smooth. We just fall under their umbrella," she explained.

Many base agencies have a vital role when Kunsan accepts follow-on forces. However, each is only one piece in the puzzle to accept follow-on forces. To complete the second part of Kunsan's mission, each puzzle piece must seamlessly interconnect with each other to make the "big picture" complete.

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**Tech. Sgt. Rosalyn Hawkins**  
**8th Logistics Support Squadron**